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Army Anthropology (Part I of Vol. 15: Statistics: The Medical Department of the United States Army in the World War), prepared under the direction of M. W. Ireland, Surgeon-General of the Army, by Charles B. Davenport and Albert G. Love. Washington. 1921. 635 pp.

This volume presents the anthropological data on recruits in the World War and is a companion volume to that entitled *Defects Found in Drafted Men,* prepared by the same authors in 1920 for the Surgeon-General's Office, War Department. The volume is a very complete analysis of the anthropological measurements on 1,000,000 recruits, on 100,000 men at demobilization, and on a large number of men showing certain physical defects.

The height, weight, and chest circumference were taken on the first 1,000,000 recruits. The mean values for the army as a whole and for groups of men from various sections of the country were compared with the Civil War records. As the authors point out, these facts cannot be used as an indication of the change of build in American young men because of the great influence of subsequent immigration. Comparison is also made between recruits from the individual states of the United States and also from the various sections of the country as characterized by occupation or type of population. This may possibly serve as a background for studying and perhaps understanding the variation from the mean for recruits from various sections. Comparison between the recruits at mobilization and at demobilization showed an increase in all three measurements over the latter group.

The most interesting comparisons, however, are those made between men of different nationalities—English, French, German, Hebrew, Irish, Italian, Polish, and Scotch. The tallest race are the Scotch; their mean height (67.93 inches) is almost 3 inches greater than that of the shortest race, the Italians (65.03 inches). The standard deviation for each nationality was about $2^1/_2$ inches. The mean weight ranged from 148.20 pounds for the Germans down to 137.85 pounds for the Hebrews. The significant fact was found that the Mediterranean races and the Hebrews have a greater chest girth in comparison with their height and with their weight than do the Nordic races. This may help to explain the very favorable condition of vigor of these two races.

The three measurements of height, weight, and chest circumference are important for selecting recruits for the army, but more important still, in the opinion of the authors, is Quetelet's height weight index, $\frac{\text{Wt} \times 1000}{\text{Ht}^2}$. This index "tells us something about the physical constitution of a man, and, by implication and as a result of experience, also something of his ability to withstand the stress of warfare. . . . In fact, it is not too much to say that the principal reason for taking weight in connection with height is to secure a numerical statement of the build as a first means of deciding upon the acceptance or rejection of the recruit for military service." This index, however, ranges from 36.5 for the short men to 28.6 for the tall men, because the weight does not increase at so great a rate as the height squared. Just what does this index indicate, and what is its range of variation compatible with good constitution? For men under 70 inches the index for the World War veterans, because of their greater relative weight, was higher than for the Civil War soldiers, and the authors conclude that the soldiers in 1919 were more robust.

But what are the limits of this beneficial extra weight? In studying men from various states and sections of the country and men with specific impairments, the data are not subdivided by age, but the index is computed for the group as a whole. If we may still assume that a higher index indicates a better constitution, we find that men with flat feet, varicose veins, hypertrophic tonsils have a better constitution than the recruits for the World War. Obviously, there are some limitations to the use of this index. Too much is claimed for it. A man of any height with corresponding average weight may be said to have a good build, but it is yet to be proved that his constitution and power of resistance are necessarily good. The results must be interpreted with great caution.

The authors use another index for robustness known as Pignet's formula [Height in cm − (chest in cm + wt in kg)]. The lower the index the better the constitution. This formula is founded on Pignet's argument that chest girth increases with height and also with weight, that the three quantities increase in such a way that in the normal person the index obtained by applying the formula will be a constant. We know that these measurements give wide variations. In fact, on these data the variations are so great that 65 per cent of the recruits over 5 ft. 7 inches do not measure up any higher than the majority of the groups showing impairments.

Eighteen special anthropologic measurements were taken on 100,000 men at demobilization, and comparison is made between the white and negro troops. Though the average height of both groups is about the same, the average weight is a little higher for the negroes. In the main, the negroes have relatively longer appendages, shorter trunk, head, and neck, broader shoulders, narrower pelvis, and greater girth of neck and length of thigh and calf than the white troops. The white troops seem more powerfully developed than the negro in the chest and less powerfully developed from the pelvis down.

The second section of this volume deals with the measurements of height, weight, and chest circumference and the interrelation of these three measurements of recruits found with various impairments including organic, functional, and physical abnormalities. The possible reasons for deviation from the normal are fully discussed. In studying these statistics it is important to consider the race in relation to the disease. For example, the group having myopia shows a relatively low mean stature as compared with other impairment groups. This is not because short stature causes myopia, but rather because this group is largely composed of Polish Jews whose mean stature is low even among the normal population. This combination of two dissimilar classes gives results with high variability. Where size and defect interact as cause and effect, the coefficient of variability is low. This must be taken into account in studying these diseases in connection with bodily measurements.

The mean values of the measurements on these groups cannot, however, be used as criteria of all groups of persons showing these impairments, because the recruits here reported on had been passed by local draft boards and were therefore highly selected, probably representing the best of that impairment class.

This volume is an excellent handbook. The data are clearly presented and carefully analyzed. For every measurement taken there are tables giving the comparisons between groups from individual states and sections of the country, and between recruits of various nationalities. Charts and graphs bring out clearly the points of interest. For the student who wishes to study in even greater detail the data presented, there are tables of correlation between many pairs of measurements. A definite and valuable contribution has been made to the anthropologic data on young American men.

MARGARET E. GANTT

Monetary Policy, Being the Report of a Sub-Committee on Currency and the Gold Standard, by J. H. Clapham, C. W. Guilleband, F. Lavington, D. H. Robertson. London: P. S. King & Son. 1921. 75 pp.

The currency disorder now prevailing in what was formerly the "gold standard world" has opened another era of discussion concerning monetary problems. In Great Britain, where the currency has not depreciated beyond the hope of redemption, the discussion has already led to the collection of information and the consideration of alternative policies. This pamphlet, the report of a sub-committee appointed by the British Association for the Advancement of Science, presents the relevant statistical data for the period from 1914 to 1921, woven together by comments which indicate the significance of the changes in such matters as the volume of currency, the national debt, the balance of foreign trade, and the level of prices. On the basis of this information the report then considers two general questions: first, whether the level of prices most conducive to the general welfare would be higher or lower than the post-war level, and by how much; and, second, the desirability of a return to an effective gold standard.

In the consideration of the second question the report is most suggestive. While the restoration of the old gold standard is not viewed as the final goal of monetary policy, yet it is regarded "as a respectable interim measure the accomplishment of which would be worth some trouble and inconvenience." The possibility of reëstablishing specie redemption in England seems to depend upon the relative movements of the price levels in the United States and in England. The passing of the present business depression, it is held, will furnish an opportunity for pursuing a policy which might bring English prices nearer to the gold price-level. With the return of prosperity and the increase of prices which may be expected to accompany it, the policy recommended is the restriction of the rise in English prices by moderating the expansion of bank currency. If, during the same period, the United States made full use of the available bank credit, the gold price-level would rapidly advance, and "the gap between the American and the English price-levels would, for the time being, be at least partially closed." The adoption of such policy, it is recognized, would require of borrowers in England, both private and public, an unaccustomed restraint in the use of bank credit; and, further, the success of the policy would depend largely upon the rediscount policies of the Federal Reserve Banks. The conclusion is, apparently, that if the United States will indulge sufficiently in a differential inflation, then England may be able to resume specie payments.